

God is Omnipotent

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Open your Bible to Psalm 62.

You would think that of all that the Bible says about the omnipotence of God, that we could trust him. God is omnipotent. And that simply means that he is all powerful.

If you look here in Psalm 62, we have read this many times. But here in verse 11 it is stated so clearly.

“God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.”¹

Now I don't read any additions after that. It says that power belongs to God. And therefore he is all powerful. His power, on the one hand, has to do with his authority and we saw that under his sovereignty. But his power also has to do with his ability. He not only has the right to do what he wills, but he also has the ability to do what he wills. As a matter of fact, what good would it do to have all authority if you didn't have the ability to back it up?

You see, the illustration that he gives us in Scripture shows us in the potter that he has the power in the sense that he has the authority, but also that he has the power in that he has the ability.

Turn over to Romans nine and look with me in Romans nine in verse 21.

He says, “Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”²

That is the right or the authority, but it goes on.

“What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known,”³ to actually do it...

¹ Psalm 62:11.

² Romans 9:21.

³ Romans 9:22.

...of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory.⁴

Now in order to accomplish what he just spoke of in those verses with regard to the vessels of wrath and the vessels of mercy, he has not only to have power in the sense of authority, but also of ability. He has not only to choose and to prepare and to plan, but he also has to act. He has to do. And the power of God, as we just read in those verses, it takes two directions and has two objectives. On the one hand it has to do with the salvation of those vessels of mercy. And yet at the same time it has to do also with that judgment that is brought against those who are described as vessels of wrath. And his power in grace, that is what I like to think about.

His power in grace is equal to his power in wrath. In other words, he can do and does do with regard to those people that he saves, just as much so as he can do and does do toward those that he passes by, because he is all powerful.

As a matter of fact, James describes him in this way. He says, "There is one lawgiver."⁵ Not a lot, just one. And he describes him in this way. He says, "...who is able to save and to destroy."⁶ Who is what? Who is able. He is able to save and he is able to destroy. And were he not able to convert, to save, to actually save these he calls vessels of mercy, then surely he would not have power to then condemn and judge those he calls vessels of wrath. He has to have power to do all these things. And if he can be held at bay, as so many say that he is right now by sinners all over this world, if he can be kept from carrying out his purpose, if he can be kept from glorifying himself, if he can be kept from saving those he desires to save, if he can be held at bay, then he is not the mighty God that the Scriptures say that he is.

But when you look over in the Revelation... turn over to Revelation chapter 19. One of the things that is a great blessing to the elect of God and shall be not only in time, but for all eternity and a thing that we rejoice in, it is this very thing, Revelation 19 and verse five.

"And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants."⁷

I sure want to be found amongst that number., commanded to praise our God.

"...all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude..."⁸

⁴ Romans 9:21-22.

⁵ James 4:12.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Revelation 19:5.

⁸ Revelation 19:5-6.

Not a little two or three member choir somewhere in heaven, but he says, “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”⁹

We praise our God and we rejoice here on earth with those already in his presence not quietly, but loudly to the praise of his name that the Lord God almighty, omnipotent, he reigns. He rules. And he does so with this power, first of all, that is totally, absolutely his own. There is no power except that which belongs to him and that which is delegated by him.

As a matter of fact, Nebuchadnezzar found this out in a very clear way that ought to be a real lesson to every person who would hear this, because when God got through dealing with him, this is his confession, he was the absolute king of the world, you might as well say, in his day.

He says, “All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing.”¹⁰

And he put himself in that same category.

Everybody in this world in his sight is counted as nothing in this sense.

“...and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand.”¹¹

That means stop him. Nobody. They cannot stop the hand of the omnipotent God. They cannot in any way raise up a power to equal his and neither can they say unto him, “What doest thou?”

They cannot question him. He is absolute in his power and so Paul writes and expresses it this way. He says, “Now unto him that is able...”¹²

I like to read the Scriptures and what it says about the ability of God. The only ability that man has is the ability to sin and every other ability has to come from God.

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us...”¹³

We can't even acknowledge him. We don't even have power to acknowledge his power unless he has his power working in us, this absolute power.

⁹ Revelation 19:6.

¹⁰ Daniel 4:35.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ephesians 3:20.

¹³ Ibid.

In Mathew 19 it says this. It says when Jesus beheld these people in this occasion he said unto them in light of the circumstances, he said, “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”¹⁴

You don’t have the power to do this, but God has the power to do it all. He has absolute power. And it is controlled only, exclusively by his own desire. It is controlled by his own will and purpose. And not only that, his is original power, not derived power. He didn’t get his power from somebody else. He doesn’t have anybody that he has to answer to or get permission from or ability from. He didn’t get it from anyone. He did not anything with a borrowed power.

You remember what our Lord said to Pilate. What he said of Pilate can be said of every person that lives in this world or has ever lived in this world outside of himself.

Pilate said, “Don’t you know I have got the power to crucify you or let you go or this... all this stuff?”

The Lord said, “You could have no power against me, you couldn’t even have... you don’t have the strength to command one of these soldiers to rise up and take me. You certainly could not ever do it of yourself.”

“Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above.”¹⁵

And, you know, here we are in this world sometimes and we are fretting over what this one may do or fretting over what that one may say and all this kind of stuff. But it is the same with them. They could have no power. They can do nothing except it is given them from above.

As a matter of fact, if you look back in Job chapter one you will see the devil there, Satan himself hamstrung, unable to do anything, unable to touch Job or anybody else except God give him permission.

You and I are no match for the devil. We are not like these preachers running around up and down the land rebuking the devil and doing all this kind of stuff. It says that the archangel did not even dispute over the body of Moses with the devil. But though that is the case and he is like a roaring lion, going about seeking whom he may devour, at the same time he can’t do anything except what almighty God allows him to do.

Dave, you got a new dog and you are going to lead him around wherever you want him to go on a leash. You are going to teach him what to do. You are not going to let him do some things.

That is the way the devil is with God. He is on God’s chain, the Bible says, and he can only do what it is that God allows him to do which will work to the salvation of his

¹⁴ Matthew 19:26.

¹⁵ John 19:11.

people and the glory of his name. He is almighty God. And every power, every government, every ruler, every person whether they are promoted to foreman on the job or President of the United States or king of whatever land it is, everyone he says, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.”¹⁶

That kind of grates on us sometimes that there are higher powers than us. You get up and you drive to work and you run up with one of those higher powers. Tax time, license plate time. Everywhere you turn you run up with these higher powers.

But he said, “Be subject to them.”

“For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”¹⁷

Why? Because the powers that be...

It didn't say how they got there. It didn't say whatever kind of secondary cause or whether it was an election, whether or not it was an appointment. The powers that be are ordained of God, because all power is of God, all derived from God.

And this power, this ability primarily, this ability is essential to all of God's nature and to all his attributes. It is the life of his attributes.

He not only has to be God, he has to act like God. He has to do like God. He has to be this almighty, omnipotent God. And the very first thing that we see in this book when we open up the very first page of the book of Genesis, the very first being that we run up with is the omnipotent God.

How powerful is he? Well, I will tell you just how powerful he is. And this ought to tell us a lot about him right to start with.

The almighty, all powerful God opens up on the scene in the book of Genesis creating worlds out of nothing. That which he made was made out of that which did not exist. That is right. As a matter of fact, you can look in that book, if you read it real slow, you can see this omnipotent God dwelling in eternity and having need of nothing, but in this creation speaking that into existence which was not saying, “Let there be light: and there was light.”¹⁸

As a matter of fact, that really is just said for our poor benefits. They call that the divine fiat which is really not to even have to utter a word, just to will it into existence out of nothing.

¹⁶ Romans 13:1.

¹⁷ Romans 13:1-2.

¹⁸ Genesis 1:3.

Jeremiah says:

Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee. Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name.¹⁹

As a matter of fact, this same omnipotence, this same power as it is demonstrated in God creating this world, reveals a sufficient amount that men will be accountable just on what God displayed of his power in creation.

Do you know that? There is not anybody sitting out somewhere that doesn't know anything about the power of God.

Turn over to Romans chapter one and look down at Romans chapter one at verse 19. Men hold the truth, he says, in unrighteousness.

Why?

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,²⁰ by the things that the invisible God has manifested, a sufficient revelation of himself in the things that he has made

“...even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”²¹

Now if you walked in that door tomorrow morning and you saw muddy footprints all over this carpet, what would you think? Well, there hasn't been anybody here.

By what you saw, you would know somebody had been here. If you walked in that door, you saw a pile of sawdust and woodchips and a new table sitting there that had been sanded and polished up nice. You would say, “Somebody made this table.”

Sun, skies, trees, everything in this creation shows his eternal power and godhead. And every man is without excuse and will be held accountable based on that refused revelation of God.

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”²²

¹⁹ Jeremiah 32:17-18.

²⁰ Romans 1:19-20.

²¹ Romans 1:20.

²² Colossians 1:16.

The writer of Hebrews saying, “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”²³

Here we are all this time into this created world. And just about the time men think they have reached the last frontier of detail, they get to this part of a molecule. They get to this DNA. And the farther they go and the more that they are enabled and increased in capacity to look and to examine and to measure, the less they really know, because almighty God created this world. And not only that, it is his power that sustains it.

This doesn't just happen. We like to think sometimes that we are the reason why everything carries on. Not so. He is before all things, Paul says to the Colossians, “and by him all things consist.”²⁴

Now if I didn't believe that, you might could dupe me into the global warming thing. You might could. But it says, “By him all things consist.”

You see, at the root and heart of all these things is not only a denial of God, but a mockery at the word and character and power of God.

You say, “Well, we... this world just can't go on unless we do this, that and the other.”

We had nothing to do with bringing it into being to start with. We have nothing to do with sustaining it, though we are to be wise stewards of everything the Lord has given us. But when we get to thinking that it is up to us, that is when we are on his territory. He is all powerful.

I won't even go into the depths.

In Hebrews one it says, “upholding all things by the word of his power.”²⁵

He is the sustainer of his universe. But most especially, this power is brought to light in the grace of God to his people in his mighty Christ.

Sweet little baby Jesus in a manger, sweet little Jesus boy in the carpenter shop in Nazareth, sweet little man Jesus walking in sandals by the Sea of Galilee. No. The one that is described in Scripture as he who is mighty to save.

You see, in his birth he is described in his birth now as the one that shall be born of the power of the highest.

“The Holy Ghost,” the angels says to Mary, “shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee.”²⁶

²³ Hebrews 11:3.

²⁴ Colossians 1:17.

²⁵ Hebrews 1:3.

And it has got to be a man born in this world, the Messiah.

And he can't be sinful. So he can't have a natural fallen from Adam father. So it says a virgin conceived, not of a man, but of the highest, the power of the highest.

And he himself is described by the apostle when he writes to the Corinthians. He describes this same one as Christ the power of God. The authority? Sure, but also the ability.

When he walked on this earth as a man who looked just exactly like any other man of his day, didn't have a halo around his head, didn't have prettier facial features. He looked like a Jewish man. But everywhere he went he did things that no other man could do. In other words, whatever could be counterfeited by the devil, he did in such a way that it was unmistakably the power of God, so much so that the worst of his enemies they could not deny what they saw. They could not deny what he did. They tried to turn and just call him a healer and a teacher and a man sent from God and all these things, because they couldn't deny what he did.

And it went not only from healing the sick, raising the lame, raising up the paralyzed, opening the eyes of the blind to show what miracles of grace he would perform in the saving of his people right down to raising them from the dead.

And he didn't go everywhere and do that to everybody, which really showed that he had the authority as well as the ability. But he came and he did those things and all the way in his life he did everything to accomplish the will of the one who sent him. The sad thing about us is we couldn't do the will of the Father if we wanted to which is a great part of it. By nature we don't. He did. He did. He demonstrated power in the resistance of sin right down, especially in the time when it looked like that he had the least power. That is when he demonstrated the greatest power.

He said, "No man taketh it from me."²⁷

You say, "Well, preacher, those Romans soldiers were right there taking it."

No, they weren't.

He says, "But I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."²⁸

He in that power lived that life. He in that power died that death and he in that power raised from the dead. He raised from the dead.

²⁶ Luke 1:35.

²⁷ John 10:18.

²⁸ Ibid.

Paul says in Ephesians one, “[I am praying] what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us—ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.”²⁹

And he ascended into glory. He is the almighty God.

And in his accomplishments it says that the Father has “has given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”³⁰

One of the last things he reminded his disciples of and maybe told them in a way they had no perception of it prior to that, but he said before he ascended back, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth,”³¹ right down to the power to forgive sins. And not only that, but he has power to make spiritually alive all his people who are spiritually dead just like he did Lazarus who was physically dead.

I dare say that if you had been there on that occasion and had known of a fact that this man Lazarus was dead, undeniably dead, three day old and stinking dead, and you beheld him standing at that tomb door saying, “Lazarus, come forth,”³² you would have been impressed.

But I can tell you this. Great and glorious as that may be, that is nothing compared to what it takes to make alive one who is dead in trespasses and sins and who has not the life of God, has no faith, has no understanding of spiritual things, has no eye to behold the truth as it is in Christ Jesus, no desire to be saved, no desire to know God, self righteous and loathing with that stench that is an abomination in the nostrils of God. And he comes to that sinner that he has loved with an everlasting love and redeemed by his blood. He says, “Live, live.” And live they do.

He has the power in this demonstration of omnipotent grace. I love that term. Omnipotent, all powerful grace.

Let men have their grace that is good will and a nice feeling and a benevolent attitude. Give me omnipotent grace, all powerful grace. He has his grace and in the power of his grace he gets the gospel to his people and he gets his people to the gospel.

He does so by that means that he calls the power of God unto salvation. What is that? The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He causes his gospel to be preached.

Do you think for one minute that the gospel would even be whispered anywhere in this day if it were not for the power of God? Do you think there would even be a copy of the Scriptures anywhere? Atheist after Atheist have said wherever they were and whenever

²⁹ Ephesians 1:19-20.

³⁰ John 17:2.

³¹ Matthew 28:18.

³² John 11:43.

they were that in 100 years nobody would even know what a Bible is. But they do, don't they, because he is almighty and he bring such poor and pitiful human instruments to preach it and he brings them to preach to such dead, dead sinners and he causes him to believe what? The power of God.

Paul said, "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance,"³³ because the omnipotent God brought it.

Power over the so-called free wills of men, because his people shall be willing in the day of his power.

And power to apply every promise, power to assure that everything is fulfilled and power to preserve it, his redeemed.

Peter says that the Lord's people, "are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."³⁴

Kept by what? The power of God.

See, it is through faith. Yeah. But it is God who gives faith.

And our Lord said, "I know my sheep. I love my sheep. I lay down my life for my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. They follow me. I give unto them eternal life and they will never perish. No man can pluck them out of my Father's hand, because that is the hand of the omnipotent God."

Oh, he has power to judge his enemies, to cast every rebel into the very depths of hell for eternity. That is nothing. This power to save, like the old hymn writer said, "We will sing thy power to save." And we will bow our heads as our Lord has taught us and we will pray, "Thine is the power, therefore thine is the glory forever and ever. Amen, amen."

To God alone belongs power. I am just glad he demonstrates that power to save a poor sinner like me and to sustain us in this fallen world until he comes, provide for us and preserve us and help us and bring every promise and every prophecy to pass for his glory.

Father, we thank you tonight for your great power and that you have shown yourself to us and others, demonstrating your omnipotent grace as the one who is mighty to save. Power belongs unto you in every sense. Thank you for displaying it in saving us. Amen.

³³ 1 Thessalonians 1:5.

³⁴ 1 Peter 1:5.